

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /071 W
-----201846Z 028526 /53

R 201734Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1963
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 11631

E.O.11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PFOR FR VN US
SUBJ: PHAM VAN DONG VISIT TO FRANCE

REF: (A) PARIS 10100, (B) PARIS 11133

1. QUAI DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR ASIA DOPFFER TOLD EMBOFF THAT ACCORDING TO THE VIETNAMESE PHAM VAN DONG'S OFFICIAL VISIT TO FRANCE WOULD BE APRIL 25-28 AND WOULD HAVE A 2-DAY PRIVATE VISIT AFTERWARDS, LEAVING APRIL 30. DURING HIS PRIVATE VISIT PHAM VAN DONG WOULD APPARENTLY NOT GO VERY FAR FROM PARIS; HE WOULD PARTICIPATE IN A LARGE DEMONSTRATION FOR THE VIETNAMESE AT PLACE DU COLONEL FABRE AND MIGHT VISIT SOME MUSEUMS. DURING THE OFFICIAL VISIT, GISCARD WILL HOST A DINNER FOR HIM AMONG OTHER ENTERTAINMENTS. THE FRENCH WERE NOT CLEAR AS TO WHETHER DONG WOULD GO DIRECTLY TO MOSCOW OR WOULD GO VIA BUDAPEST. IT WOULD BE FROM MOSCOW THAT HE WOULD VISIT SWEDEN, NORWAY AND FINLAND IF POSSIBLE. THE REQUEST TO VISIT OTHER WESTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES HAS BEEN DROPPED.

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2. DOPFFER SAID THAT THEY HAD BEEN ENGAGED IN VERY DIFFICULT NEGOTIATIONS TO ARRIVE AT THE DOCUMENTS TO BE SIGNED DURING DONG'S VISIT. THEY HAD MADE IT CLEAR TO THE VIETNAMESE THAT THE FRENCH WERE QUITE PREPARED FOR A GENEROUS AID PROGRAM, BUT THIS PROGRAM COULD NOT BE ISOLATED FROM ASPECTS OF THEIR RELATIONSHIP SUCH AS SOME SATISFACTION CONCERNING CLAIMS OF FRENCH CITIZENS

FOR PROPERTY SEIZED IN VIETNAM. THE FIGURES BEING DISCUSSED WERE NOT YET DEFINITE, SO HE CHOSE NOT TO GIVE ANY (SEE REF B FOR A FRANKER REPORT). DOPFFER COMMENTED THAT THE FRENCH BUSINESSMEN HAD SUBMITTED CLAIMS WHICH WERE OBVIOUSLY GROSSLY INFLATED, BUT THE GOF THOUGHT IT HAD SHAVED THE CLAIM WHICH IT WAS PREPARED TO PRESS TO A VERY REASONABLE FIGURE. THE VIETNAMESE WERE CONTINUING TO BE DIFFICULT, BUT THE FRENCH WERE NOW PREPARED TO BE DIFFICULT ALSO AND WOULD NOT BUDGE ON THIS ISSUE. DOPFFER EXPECTED TO BE HAGGLING WITH THEM UNTIL SUNDAY NIGHT, THE EVE OF DONG'S ARRIVAL.

3. DOPFFER SAID THAT DURING THE PAST FEW WEEKS THEY HAD LEARNED A GREAT DEAL ABOUT TOUGH NEGOTIATING FROM THE VIETNAMESE AND HAVE NOW THEMSELVES BECOME VIETNAMESE. THEY ARE STILL FINDING IT VERY FRUSTRATING SINCE THEY

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CONSIDER THEIR POSITION TO BE NOT ONLY REASONABLE BUT VERY GENEROUS. THEY ALSO DID NOT THINK THAT THERE WAS ANY INFIGHTING IN HANOI TO JUSTIFY THESE PROBLEMS. THEY THOUGHT THAT LE DUAN'S SEEING DONG OFF AT THE AIRPORT SYMBOLIZED THE UNITY OF THE SRV CONCERNING THE VISIT AND ITS GOALS.

4. DOPFFER SAID THAT THERE WOULD BE DISCUSSIONS OF MAJOR WORLD PROBLEMS AND THEY ANTICIPATED THAT DONG WOULD TALK ABOUT THE US AND ITS ROLE IN ASIA AND MIGHT EVEN SPEAK ABOUT VIETNAMESE INTENTIONS CONCERNING BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH THE US. HE THOUGHT THERE WOULD BE LITTLE MORE THAN GENERALITIES SINCE THESE CONVERSATIONS WOULD TAKE PLACE JUST BEFORE THE BEGINNING OF US NEGOTIATIONS. HE AGREED TO MEET WITH EMBOFF MONDAY, MAY 2 (OR EARLIER IF POSSIBLE) TO TELL US OF ANYTHING PERTINENT CONCERNING OUR NEGOTIATIONS. HE CAUTIONED US, HOWEVER, THAT HE WOULD PROBABLY NOT BE PRIVY TO ANYTHING WHICH WAS DISCUSSED IN THE SEVERAL TETE-A-TETE CONVERSATIONS CURRENTLY SCHEDULED. DOPFFER SAID
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HE HAD READ THAT WE WISHED TO MOVE RAPIDLY TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS WHICH WOULD IN TURN DISCUSS OTHER OUTSTANDING PROBLEMS, PARTICULARLY AID. HE NOTED THAT IF SUCH MISSIONS ARE ESTABLISHED, THE VIETNAMESE WOULD BE LEFT WITH ONLY THE MIA AS A LEVER FOR FURTHER NEGOTIATING, AND THE MIA ISSUE WAS A CARD OF DIMINISHING VALUE. HE THOUGHT THAT FROM HIS OWN EXPERIENCE IN THE PAST FEW WEEKS WE MIGHT HAVE SOME VERY HARD BARGAINING BEFORE THERE COULD BE AGREEMENT ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS.
HARLAN

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